

# North Central Chat

Keeping you up to date with all the Landcare and Waterwatch news



July 2022

## A message from the Regional Landcare Coordinator

Hi everyone,

Are we all breathing a little sigh of relief with EOFY behind us? It's safe to say we've had our heads down data crunching these past few weeks, as we complete another year's worth of catchment health and community capacity building reporting. Collectively these achievements are recorded and reported up to the relevant investment bodies. For me, that means feeding the events, workshops, field days, training sessions, and on-ground achievements through to the Victorian Landcare Program. At an organisational scale, our collective annual achievements are collated into the Victorian CMAs' Action and Achievements report.

Speaking of collective achievements, the North Central CMA was thrilled to launch the North Central Regional Catchment Strategy (RCS) 2021-27 at Hepburn Springs on June 23. The RCS is the overarching strategy for all involved in managing land, water, and biodiversity. It sets a vision for integrated management across the catchment.

The CMA prepared the RCS on behalf of the region. It was developed with Traditional Owners and regional agencies, organisations, groups, and local communities. You are encouraged to visit the RCS online and familiarise yourself with the content. The RCS can support better collective understanding of Traditional Owners aspirations, landscape challenges, and assist community groups to attract funding toward priority projects in local areas.

I was, of course, thrilled to have the 2022 Victorian Landcare Grants announced on June 14. With more than 160 eligible community groups, our annual VLG funding remains in high demand. Nevertheless, it is vital groups put their project ideas forward and participate in the grants program. Our regional assessment team is looking forward to reading through the 2022 Project Grant applications after submissions close on July 26.



Does your group need a little support? Do you have a budding project idea? Now is the time to apply for the 2022 Victorian Landcare Grants. Applications close Tuesday 26 July 2022.

Each July, Planet Ark celebrates National Tree Day. Since starting in 1996, the day has grown into Australia's largest community tree planting and nature care event. Each year, around 300,000 people volunteer their time to engage in environmental activities that educate Australians about the world around them. To learn more and be involved, head to the Events page.

Enjoy the read,

Tess Grieves

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## Connecting rivers, landscapes, people

The North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) acknowledges Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within the region, their rich cultures, spiritual connection to Country.

[www.nccma.vic.gov.au](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au)





## News...

### Farewell from Loddon Plains leader

**Loddon Plains Landcare Network Facilitator Danny Pentingill is heading in a new direction, taking up a role with Regen Farmers Mutual, working in the carbon and environmental assets space.**

While this is an enormous loss for our regional Landcare team, it will be very handy having someone of Danny's skill and intellect supporting farmers with their on-farm decision making.

In Danny's own words "This opportunity allows me to spend more time with my family, and provides me with an exciting opportunity to create a significant impact supporting and delivering farmer-led carbon and ecosystem service projects across Victoria. I am extremely proud of what the LPLN has achieved in the time I have been in the role and thank the committee for its support throughout my tenure".

During his time with LPLN, Danny was awarded an Our Catchment Our Community Leadership Innovation Award in 2019 and included in the top 12 finalists of the Landcare Australia 2020 Bob Hawke Landcare Award.



On behalf of the North Central CMA and the Landcare team, I wish to thank Danny for his leadership, vision and drive during his time in Landcare. We look forward to hearing about Danny's ongoing growth and progression in driving mutually beneficial outcomes for farmers and the environment in his new role.

## Love your Land series

Article by Axe Creek Landcare volunteer Kristie Smith

**What's the best way to cope with the cold? Get out in it! After a successful summer *Love Your Land* event series, Axe Creek Landcare will invite the community to rug up and get into nature again this winter.**

We've invited special presenters, including Chris Tzaros, for a day of nature photography, followed by a day of bird watching. We'll welcome back Alison Pouliot for a Foray into Fungi; and we've recruited local art favourite Myf Truscott to get the kids looking below the leaf litter for artistic inspiration.

The *Love Your Land* series is our response to the Victorian Government's research which revealed key insights such as:

- Volunteers are attracted to flexible, event-based and short-term opportunities
- Virtual volunteering is a 'thing' and has potential to attract new volunteers
- Environmental volunteers are often motivated to contribute when they have a connection to the environment.

What better way to create a connection than through creative workshops that encourage people to look a little deeper, notice a small detail or record their observations?

While the sessions have provided an exciting change for our regular volunteers, it has also tapped into a new demographic and has challenged our community to reimagine volunteerism.



Alison Pouliot's photography workshop was in high demand booking out in a matter of days. Photo: Peter Weaving Photography

The summer event series included Alison Pouliot's Environmental Photography; Terry Jarvis's Watercolour in the Bush; our very own Karen Lees' DIY Native Bee



Hotel; Chris Rockley's Therapeutic Nature Journaling; and Peta Hudson's very popular wattleseed and lemon myrtle scone cooking demonstration.

Alison Pouliot and Peta Hudson's online events captured the attention of the National Sustainability Festival. We released additional tickets for each event to capitalise on the broad reach of the festival and we were pleasantly surprised to find our events attended by many out-of-towners, including people from interstate, Canada, and the USA. Some Melbourne participants have returned to participate in in-situ events.

The series has challenged us as committee members to be resourceful and sometimes acquire new skills, particularly with online platforms. We broadcast across the globe with the IT assistance of a 12-year old and a borrowed 360-degree camera attached to a ladder in my kitchen; we targeted a specific demographic using Facebook Ads; and we leveraged online marketing platforms to gain international coverage of our events.



Kristie and Peta hosting the cooking demonstration. Photo: Peter Weaving Photography

Online platforms can be uncomfortable for those of us over the age of 12, but have proven to be effective and economical throughout this community engagement campaign. Getting techy has allowed us to extend our reach beyond our geographical borders and beyond our traditional volunteer demographics.

We have seen environmental education and participation increase and diversify, thanks to the support of the Victorian Government's Community Volunteer Action Grant.

To keep informed about upcoming Love Your Land events, please send a request to join our mailing list at: [axecreeklandcaregroup@gmail.com](mailto:axecreeklandcaregroup@gmail.com).

## Tylden Landcare, PGL and Sacred Heart College volunteering along the Little Coliban River

Article by Tylden Landcare Group President, Brendan Smith.

**During May, Sacred Heart College students from Kyneton planted native vegetation along the Little Coliban River as part of their Year 11 Retreat.**

This partnership project with the Victorian Government's 2021 Victorian Landcare Grant involves rehabilitation of native vegetation along riparian areas of the Little Coliban River. For Year 11 SHC students the project allowed an opportunity to volunteer in the Tylden Landcare community project along the Little Coliban at PGL during their retreat.

It has been identified by the North Central Catchment Management Authority that only two per cent of the vegetation along the Little Coliban River is in good condition. This leaves 98 per cent of native vegetation in marginal to poor condition. The primary objective of rehabilitation works is to improve the quality and extent of native vegetation along the Little Coliban River. Weed invasion, lack of native vegetation, and stock access have direct impacts on the water quality. This water flows to the Upper Coliban Reservoir and is our drinking water.

The area has been planted with indigenous trees, shrubs, and grasses. Once established, this vegetation will create a filter zone between the stream and its surrounding catchment area. The plants will provide many ecosystem services including the filtering of nutrients and will control streambank erosion inputs from reaching the reservoir.



Students investigated the role of riparian vegetation filtering nutrient inflows so clean water enters our



reservoirs- a biocentric solution to a conservation issue. Soil types and erosivity experiments were carried out to demonstrate different sites have different soils and we must manage our works around these soil types.

Students split into two groups and made a rapid appraisal of riparian condition along two separate reaches of the Little Coliban. This appraisal gauges longitudinal and lateral vegetation continuity along the river, vegetation storeys, leaf litter layer, debris, logs, habitat values such as tree hollows and standing dead trees. As expected, the results were not outstanding but they were consistent. At 32 per cent averaged from the two groups there is room for improvement- some of these improvements, however, may be decades away such as the development of tree hollows or logs on the ground. Clearly, this is a long-term project!

Andrew Dunne, teacher from SHC said the students did a good job in the conditions. "Participation in a landscape and river rehabilitation program such as this local one will help us to reduce our ecological footprint to more sustainable levels," he said.



Along with about 300 trees, shrubs, grasses, and sedges, SHC students participated in a reintroduction program for a local rare species – the Australian anchor plant. This is a dense, spiny, multi stemmed plant that grows to two metres.

After their efforts Year 11 Sacred Heart College students are a participant in reducing their ecological footprint and in moving towards a Healthy Little Coliban River that will provide clean, healthy water for our reservoirs.

## Frog Ponds Project

Article by Liam Sibly, Ironbark Gully Friends Landcare Group

**The Ironbark Gully Friends Landcare Group have been busily working away at our frog pond project.**

The project has created a series of ponds to slow and filter stormwater, while also creating habitat for frogs, lizards, and birds.

It's looking an absolute treat and I'd encourage you to have a look at the ponds located at the end of Hayes St, Ironbark (opposite the Garden Gully hocky complex). Better yet, come lend a hand at one of our working bees.



Volunteers have planted more than 2,000 native grasses, rushes, ground covers, and native shrubs. More than 25 cubic metres of mulch and jute weed-matting has been installed and six cubic metres of rocks placed around the site. Thanks also to the City of Greater Bendigo for providing a \$3,000 community grant and donating some extra materials along the way.

We also received a generous donation from the non-government organisation – FifteenTrees, who provided 500 plants for the project.

This area now includes a gathering circle of large rocks as seating with a sand centre, which is already proving popular with locals of all ages.

We can't wait to hear the calls of frogs.



## Muckleford Landcare creates a corridor

Article by Muckleford Landcare Group Secretary  
Beth Mellick

**Many of us involved in Landcare know about the concept of landscape connectivity, and about planting habitat corridors to enhance biodiversity.**

So our group applied for funding from the Victorian Government to do a connectivity project of our own. We particularly wanted to show exactly what is required to put in a habitat corridor, what it would cost, and then be able to tell that story to landholders in our area.

We approached a Muckleford landholder and his family about putting in a habitat corridor which would connect a bush block on one side of the property to a bushland reserve on the other. They jumped at the chance, knowing that putting in this habitat would only enhance the biodiversity values of their property, and provide shade for their stock.

Because the landholders had stock, we contracted a fencing company to put up a new fence with access gates. A contractor then deep ripped several lines inside a 30m wide corridor. The same contractor planted more than 3,000 native plants across the paddock – just over half a kilometre.



The Landcare volunteers got together to put guards on the plants during a community day event. We had more than 30 people turn up to help.

Should other landholders in this area want to put in a similar corridor, we can provide advice on fencing, ripping, plant selection, and cost. We can let landholders borrow our plastic plant guards we've been using and re-using for many years. You can watch a video of our project on <https://mucklefordlandcare.wordpress.com>

*The Habitat Corridor Project was supported by the Victorian Government through the 2021 Community and Volunteer Action Grants – Stream 2 Biodiversity On-ground Action and Stewardship.*

## Nature Fund – Leveraging private and philanthropic investment to protect our natural environment

**Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio recently announced \$10 million for the Labor Government's Nature Fund, to match biodiversity projects proposed by private or philanthropic groups.**

The Nature Fund will be used to support high-impact projects to top up investment from non-government organisations, including market-led proposals that can be delivered through partnerships between public and private organisations.

There are already more than 72,000 hectares of private land designated for conservation across Victoria. This will ensure funds are readily available to respond to new conservation opportunities and to environmental threats.

This investment will help to deliver on the goals of *Biodiversity 2037*, the Government's plan to stop the decline of native plants and animals and improve the state's natural environment.

A Caring for Country stream of \$1.4 million is included in the Nature Fund to support biodiversity actions led by Traditional Owners.

On top of this, the Government is investing \$2.8 million to Trust for Nature to protect important habitat on private land through voluntary conservation covenants signed with private landowners, as part of the Iconic Estates Program.

Details on applying to this fund will be made available later in 2022.

Protecting habitat on private land will improve resilience for threatened species on our public land, creating buffers zones and corridors to allow species more space to move and adapt to climate change.

More information about applying for the Nature Fund: [Nature Fund \(environment.vic.gov.au\)](https://environment.vic.gov.au)





### Communities Caring for Catchments

#### NAIDOC week comes early to Maryborough

On Thursday June 23, our Citizen Science team “showed up” to the Maryborough Education Centre to participate in Maryborough’s 2022 NAIDOC week celebrations, coordinated by the Maryborough Vic NAIDOC Week Committee. This year’s theme being Get up! Stand up! Show up!

About 800 students from kindergarten through to year 10 from Maryborough Education Centre and several surrounding schools were treated to a day of cultural ceremony and celebration, dance workshops, and activities including a waterbug search with myself and Britt Gregory. This was a particular hit with the younger students who were fascinated by bugs that were found.

It was great to be part of such a wonderful community event celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture and we look forward to contributing to next year’s event.



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#### River Detectives on Country

On June 8, 100 of our River Detectives students braved the winter sunshine for a fun-filled day of discovery at Tree Tops Scout Camp in Gunbower Forest.

Students from St Joseph’s Kerang, Gunbower, Leitchville and Koondrook primary schools were welcomed to country in a smoking ceremony by Barapa Barapa elder Uncle Ron Galway before being treated to hands-on activities to learn more about water for the environment on the Gunbower Forest floodplain.

Highlights included live turtle and fish displays from Native Fish Australia and Turtles Australia, where children learned all about the special critters that call Gunbower Forest home. Parks Victoria staff lead an interactive waterbug activity. Students were very fortunate to learn how to weave from Bapara woman Laura Kirby and to paint (and throw) boomerangs with North Central CMA staff members Rochelle and Nick.

Some quotes from students on what they learnt on the day include:

“That Golden perch travel hundreds of kilometres”

“I learnt how the different turtles made their nest and about the water bugs and what they need to survive”

“Weaving because I have learnt how to weave. I had never done it before”

“Learnt about the different bugs found in the water and fish being endangered”

We’d like to extend our gratitude to Uncle Ron Galway and Barapa Barapa Traditional Owners, Native Fish Australia, Parks Victoria, Turtles Australia, Ceramicist Anne Ferguson and her assistant Kaori, the Leitchville Bunyips Sporting Club for putting on the barbecue lunch. Also a big thanks to the many North Central CMA staff for their generous support and contributions. A special thank you to our very own River Detectives Project Officer Nicole Howie for her tireless work in coordinating such a successful and smooth-running event.

Clay fish and turtle creations produced by students on the day will be on exhibition in the Gateway to Gannawarra Visitor Centre, 90 King George St, Cohuna throughout July to celebrate the watering of the Gunbower Forest floodplain over winter and spring.





COMMUNITY  
PARTNERSHIP  
PROGRAM

## Congratulations Epsom PS

**Epsom Primary School was recently recognised at the 2022 ResourceSmart Schools Awards.**

Our River Detectives schools often embed the program within wider environmental education curriculum and climate action strategies and many of them are achieving amazing things on a wide variety of sustainability fronts.

Epsom Primary School is a great example of the way their involvement in the River Detectives program *and* the ResourceSmart Schools program can complement each other.

On June 2<sup>nd</sup> the great achievements of ResourceSmart schools were recognised at an awards ceremony at the MCG.

We are very proud our very own north central River Detectives school, Epsom PS, was celebrated as a finalist in two categories;

### **Student Action Team of The Year (primary)**

The Green Magpies comprises 36 members that meet weekly to prioritise their Sustainability Action Plan tasks. During remote learning, they entered the ResourceSmart Schools of the Future Challenge Competition, audited home waste, participated in the Grow a Row initiative to grow potatoes for the community, and even won a recycled Buddy Bench from Coles and Replas.

### **Primary Curriculum Leadership School of the Year**

During remote learning, every year level had their own web page with sustainability activities, such as recycling materials for art, using leftover scraps to build veggie gardens, and re-planting avocado seeds.

This active approach encouraged the students to be resourceful. Back in the classroom, all year levels joined sustainability programs, such as River Detectives and Landcare Planting days.

We also noted several other River Detectives schools from other regions were also recognised; Overnewton Anglican Community College Keilor, Albion PS and Mount Lilydale Mercy College.

And a huge congratulations to another school in our region. Although not a current River Detectives school, Winter's Flat PS is a real leader in environmental



education and were awarded the winner of the **Primary Community Leadership School of The Year**.

Recycling, packaging-free food, and composting are key elements of this five-star school's sustainability culture. This context has shaped the mindset of perceptive students who identified a tiny but powerful enemy in the compost system: fruit stickers.

When the students realised fruit stickers weren't breaking down in the compost, they started an awareness campaign through social media and local newspapers. After learning that in Australia no state or federal government had set a time frame to ban fruit stickers, the students ran a political awareness campaign featuring letters decorated with fruit stickers addressed to politicians and industry groups.

Well done everyone, great achievements all round.

Nicole Howie

River Detectives Project Officer

North Central CMA

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### Water Storages Update

Region	Water Storage	% full at 19 May 2022	% full at 24 June 2022
Murray Storages	Dartmouth Dam	93.58	↑94.65
	Hume Dam	91.00	↑94.00
	Third Lake	.26	↑.26
	Reedy/Middle Lk	88.92	↑92.11
	Kangaroo Lake	92.46	↑94.30
	Kow Swamp	80.73	↓60.95
	Lake Boga	79.97	↑79.99
	Lake Charm	94.63	↓94.40
Loddon Storages	Cairn Curran Res	53.62	↑54.27
	Tullaroop Res	61.93	↓61.15
	Laanecoorie Res	44.06	↓38.50
Bullarook Storages	Newlyn Res	70.65	↑76.05
	Hepburns Lagoon	68.64	↑72.43
Goulburn Storages	Lake Eildon	77.42	↑81.00
	Waranga Basin	44.84	↑65.96
Campaspe	Lake Eppalock	48.38	↑49.04
Coliban Water Storages	Upper Coliban Res	92.20	↑96.90
	Lauriston Res	84.60	↓74.60
	Malmsbury Res	10.40	↑40.30





## Upcoming Events and Special Days

July	
<a href="#">Plastic Free July</a>	1-13 Jul
<a href="#">National Farm Safety Week</a>	18-24 Jul
<a href="#">Schools Tree Day</a>	29 Jul
<a href="#">World Ranger Day</a>	31 Jul
<a href="#">National Tree Day</a>	31 Jul
August	
<a href="#">Landcare week</a>	TBD
<a href="#">National Science Week</a>	13-21 Aug
<a href="#">Keep Australia Beautiful Week</a>	TBD
<a href="#">World Humanitarian Day</a>	19 Aug
September	
<a href="#">National Biodiversity Month</a>	Sep
<a href="#">National Wattle Day</a>	1 Sep
<a href="#">National Walk to Work Day</a>	2 Sep
<a href="#">National Threatened Species Day (September 7)</a>	7 Sep
<a href="#">National Bilby Day</a>	11 Sep
<a href="#">International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer</a>	16 Sep
<a href="#">National Organic Week</a>	12-18 Sep
<a href="#">World Rivers Day</a>	25 Sep
<a href="#">International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction</a>	29 Sep

## Sustainable Ag Snippet...

## Talking Native Grasses with Paul Forman

The Mt Alexander Regenerative Agriculture Group held a native grass and pasture identification day at Zane Tronson's property in Sutton Grange recently. Zane runs a small herd of cattle and grows garlic, which he sells direct to markets.

It was a cold and wet day as you would expect for this time of year. Zane invited us all inside to warm up by the fire and provided an overview of his property and his plan for the future. Paul Foreman, who is a field botanist and ecologist, was invited by the group to talk about pastures and native grasses.

Before venturing outside, Paul presented a few historical aerial photos of the property to visualise the changes over the past 75 years.

Our first stop outside was among a remnant vegetation patch on the highest point of the property. The ground cover in this area was mostly introduced annual grasses, but there were patches of native wallaby grass which was good to see.

As we ventured down the hill towards the gully there was a mix of introduced and native grass species that provided good ground cover protecting the soil. There was old and new growth providing multiple layers consisting of decaying plant material, standing dry matter, and living green plants. This supports the landscape functionality of the property.



Identifying native and introduced species.





Participants discussing management options for this area with Paul. Photo: John Carruthers.

The gully region was fenced, which Zane said he grazes periodically with his cattle. This area was quite thick with mainly native species and provided a topic of discussion for the best management options for this area.

When we arrived back at the house, Zane was busy bringing out his home-cooked soup, which is just when participants brought out some plant specimens for Paul to identify. Overall, the group had a day full of discussion and learning to take home and identify some species on their own properties.



Paul taking to participants about introduced grasses.

Darren Bain

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## Digging Deeper for Soil Health Project opportunity for landholders or farmer groups

**The North Central CMA, in collaboration with Agriculture Victoria, has a new project called Digging Deeper for Soil Health.**

Spring is the perfect time to dig a little deeper and investigate what's really happening under your growing crops, pastures, vines and plants. This spring we would love to work with you and your networks to deliver activities to help build your understanding of the current soil condition, the value of soil data, and how to use this data for future decision making to improve soil health and productivity.

**Half-day workshops** are open to all farmers and land managers in the North Central CMA region.

**Host a workshop** with a soil pit or **host an in-paddock demonstration** on your property. In-paddock demonstrations could be a fertiliser comparison or a soil amendment assessment. Let us know which you would like to try.

If you would like to know more about the workshops or project, please contact Mandy Coulson at the North Central CMA [mandy.coulson@nccma.vic.gov.au](mailto:mandy.coulson@nccma.vic.gov.au)

**To submit an expression of interest (EOI), please follow the link below to complete your details**

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6838955/Digging-Deeper-into-Soil-Health-Workshop-Registration>

## Pilot Soil Monitoring and Incentives Program

**Pilot Soil Monitoring and Incentives Program – the Australian Government funded program to support farmers and land managers to access low-cost soil sampling and certified testing in exchange for sharing their data.**

Farmers and land managers may be eligible for benefits of up to \$10,000 and receive assistance from Commonwealth-funded soil extension officers to interpret their soil test results. The program may assist farmers to gather data for Emissions Reduction Fund projects.

**Register your interest here [Pilot Soils Program - Southern Cross University \(scu.edu.au\)](#)**

**[Pilot Soil Monitoring and Incentives Program - Frequently Asked Questions - DAWE](#)**



## Water for Country

**Annalise Varker, CMA Water for Country Support Officer.**

I started with the North Central CMA back in 2019 as a school-based trainee. Once I graduated high school, I stayed on at the CMA, now working as the Water for Country Support Officer.

In this role, I work on getting everything organised for the Barapa Barapa and Wamba Wemba Steering Committee group. That includes organising the agenda, the catering, accommodation, calling the members, emailing them with updates, and delivering an update to the members in person. It's a lot of work just for one group but it keeps me busy until the next meeting with them.

I have also been working with Britt on the Cultural Garden Space at the CMA office. I have been getting in touch with Dja Dja Wurrung and asking who the right people to talk to about are for certain parts of this project.

I am also doing water quality monitoring with Rochelle Patten (CMA Aboriginal Projects Officer). I go out with her once a month helping her out with data collection. We test the waters for salinity, turbidity, and PH levels. We then report back to Tania or Britt about our day and what was good/bad about the water.



Annalise captivating the students of Golden Square kinder during a Waterbug ID session.

I love it here at the CMA. There's no two days that are the same for sure. I love the people in the office, everyone is so serious but also very cheeky. I swear, the people here in the office are amazing. What everyone does is very important, and everyone always has a smile on their faces.

## Courses & Resources...

### Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration






In 2018, renowned environmentalist Paul Hawken visited Bendigo to talk about his new book *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*. The visit inspired local organisations and community groups to think about a collective Bendigo climate change project. In 2019, 35 people from 20 Bendigo organisations created the collaboration together. In 2021, the project governance, funding and staff were pulled together with the City of Greater Bendigo (CoGB) as the lead.

### Six Community Climate Forums to ask big questions and support climate projects.

Each forum will feature a speaker/s to inspire what we need to do to reach zero emissions and a conversation around this. All forums will be at the Bendigo Regional Tennis Centre, 21 Nolan St, Bendigo.

Upcoming 2022 forums will focus on

	<b>RENEWABLE ENERGY:</b> <b>JULY 19, 2022</b> How can we move to 100% clean energy by 2030
	<b>TRANSPORT:</b> <b>SEPTEMBER 6, 2022</b> How can we move beyond petrol by 2030
	<b>NATURE:</b> <b>NOVEMBER 15, 2022</b> How can we protect and restore our local ecosystems?

**Register interest at the website:**

<http://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/climatecollaboration>



## Gunbower Forest floodplain watering

As part of an ongoing program to protect and enhance Gunbower Forest now and for future generations, water for the environment began to flow onto the lower Gunbower Forest floodplain wetlands in late May, with the Hipwell Road regulator operating beginning in June.

North Central CMA is committed to clear and regular communication about this watering event throughout its duration, and a series of Fact Sheet, local media advertorials and FAQ documents are readily available: [Rivers and Wetlands | North Central Catchment Management Authority \(nccma.vic.gov.au\)](#)



Aquatic vegetation, important for fish and birds, needs regular water to thrive (Reedy Lagoon, December 2021)

There are plenty of areas to access the forest during the watering however some tracks will be closed for safety reasons. The tracks will be monitored during the watering.

Volunteers at the Gateway to Gannawarra Visitor Centre at Cohuna will know about track closures and spots to visit during the watering so forest users can plan their trip as early as possible. Or you can visit:

DELWP: [www.facebook.com/DELWPLoddonMallee](https://www.facebook.com/DELWPLoddonMallee) or phone 136 186.

Parks Victoria: [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au) or call 13 19 63 for information on Gunbower National Park.

Gateway to Gannawarra Visitor Centre: 90 King George Street, Cohuna, (03) 5456 2047



## Volunteer Growers ready to grow indigenous seedlings for you this Summer

**TreeProject gets urban and rural communities working together to put trees back on the land.**

Our network of trained volunteers grows local indigenous seedlings for rural landholders and Landcare groups, who need our help with revegetation.

This year our volunteers grew more than 140,000 indigenous seedlings.

For landholders, being able to access at-cost seedlings (**\$220 for 500 native seedlings**) from TreeProject, can be the critical start to restoring degraded areas.

We have been working with a number of Landcare groups (Deep Creek, Malmsbury, Upper Maribyrnong, Arawata groups order seedlings annually). These Landcare groups determine which species they want to plant, then collect or order local seed, coordinate an order of 500, and then distribute the seedlings to members when they are ready for planting. If seedlings can't be picked up we'll use volunteers to minimise the cost of delivery.

We have a lot of volunteer growers ready to grow this summer so get your order in by **30 September 2022**.



**You can find out more or order seedling via:** [Order Seedlings – Introduction | TreeProject](#)



## Events...

### Boort: GRDC Grains Research Update

The GRDC Grains Research Update events are for growers, agronomists, consultants and researchers to hear and discuss new and relevant information with their peers.

#### Key topics and speakers

**A strategic approach to managing paraquat and glyphosate resistance.**

Sam Kleeman, Plant Science Consulting

**Emerging challenges from Blackleg due to the 'green bridge'**

Angela Van de Wouw, University of Melbourne

**Cereal disease to be on the lookout for this season**

Mark Mclean and Hari Dadu, Agriculture Victoria

**Building strong agronomic foundations for canola**

Damian Jones, Irrigated Cropping Council

**The economics of effective fertiliser budgeting**

Lee Menhenett, Incitec Pivot Limited

**When:** Thursday 14 July 2022. 9am to 1pm followed by lunch (doors open at 8:30am)

**Where:** Boort Memorial Hall, Godfrey Street, Boort

**Cost:** Cost: \$30 per person (GST inc.) Morning tea, lunch and proceedings included.

**RSVP:** [GRDC Grains Research Update – Boort - GRDC](#) or contact Matt McCarthy (03) 5441 6176

### National Tree Day- Goldleaf Wetland Reserve Pasley Street, Huntly

Everyone is welcome to join in celebrating Bendigo Northern District Community Enterprise milestone of providing \$300,000 in community grants over the past 15 years

Supported by City of Greater Bendigo, Northern Bendigo Landcare Group and Planet Ark Environmental Foundation the group hope to plant 4,000 to 6,000 seedlings; mainly lower storey.

**When:** Sunday 31 July 2022 10am to 2pm

**Where:** Goldleaf Wetland Reserve Pasley Street, Huntly

**What to bring:** BYO gloves, trowel, drink bottle, suitable clothing and footwear.

Site entrance/parking at 154 Pasley St, Huntly. Disabled parking available at Airey St, Huntly  
Please consider walking or cycling to the site.

**RSVP:** Current COVID safe requirements will be required on the day. Please register at:

<https://treeday.planetark.org/site/10026025>



NATIONAL  
TREE DAY  
31 JULY

SCHOOLS  
TREE DAY  
29 JULY



National Tree Day: July 31

Schools Tree Day: July 29

#### COMPETITION TIME

This year Planet Ark are asking the community to share green garden designs with us. Tell us why you want to bring nature to your space and show us your plans for your chance to win a garden voucher to help bring your design to life.

**How to enter:** Submit a drawing, poster, written story, video, or whatever other form your plans take, via the link below.

#### ENTER COMPETITION HERE

**Prizing:** 1 x \$1,000 garden voucher

**Competition closes Sunday 31 July, 2022**

For all the National Tree Day resources, events and school competition check out the resources online:  
[National Tree Day \(planetark.org\)](https://treeday.planetark.org)



## National NAIDOC Week 2022



**The National NAIDOC Committee has announced NAIDOC Week celebrations will be held from 3 to 10 July 2022.**

National NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July each year (Sunday to Sunday), to celebrate and recognise the history, culture, and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

NAIDOC Week is an opportunity for all Australians to learn about First Nations cultures and histories and participate in celebrations of the oldest, continuous living cultures on earth. You can support and get to know your local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander communities through activities and events held across the country.

### **A premier event each year are the National NAIDOC Week Awards.**

The annual National NAIDOC Week Awards Ceremony recognises the outstanding contributions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make to improve the lives of people in their communities and beyond, and to promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues in the wider community. The awards ceremony also seeks to recognise and celebrate those who have demonstrated excellence in their chosen field.

Local events are always a treat to attend. Fine out what's happening close to you: [Local NAIDOC Week events | NAIDOC](#)



Ryhia Dank, a young Gudanji/Wakaja artist from the Northern Territory is the winner of the prestigious National NAIDOC poster competition for 2022 with her entry, Stronger.



## Funding opportunities...

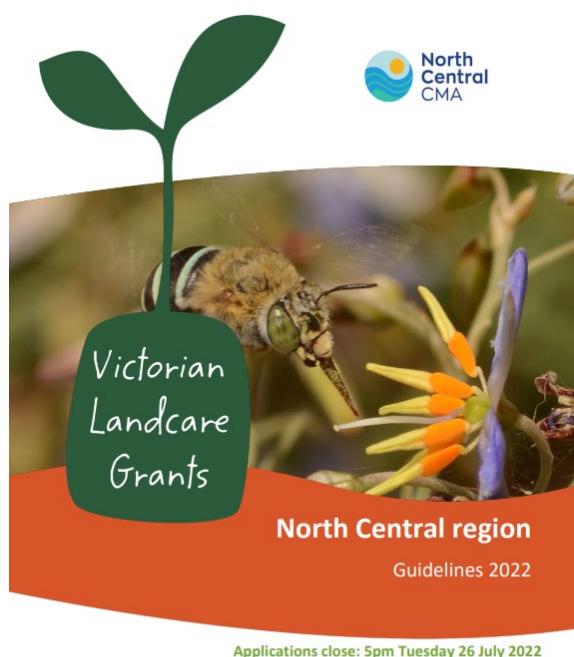
### Emerging Stronger Grants – Applications Now Open

The [Victorian Volunteer Strategy 2022-27](#) was launched recently, and the Victorian Government will provide \$1 million in grants to support local partnerships and innovation projects to re-engage volunteers, broaden the volunteer base, and strengthen volunteering in local communities.

Applications for grants of up to \$80,000 are now open, **closing 9 am Monday 18 July**. For more information and to apply, visit [Volunteer Victoria](#).

### 2022 Victorian Landcare Grants- Now Open

**The Victorian Government has announced \$3.8 million in funding for grants that will support people of all ages to value and care for Victoria's natural environment.**



Applications close: 5pm Tuesday 26 July 2022



### Funding

In 2022, a total of \$3.35 million is available through the Victorian Landcare Grants for Project Grants and Support Grants across Victoria.

### Project Grants

Project Grants of up to \$20,000 are available for on-ground works, capacity building activities, community education and engagement that protects or improves our natural environment such as native vegetation, native fauna, waterways, wetlands, and soils.

### Support Grants

Support Grants of up to \$500 are to assist with costs such as insurance, incorporation and operational needs, or meetings and events or newsletters, websites and other communication.

### Eligibility

Grants are open to all Victorian Landcare and environmental volunteering groups and networks that have a focus on on-ground land and natural environment improvement work. This includes Landcare groups and networks, Friends groups, Conservation Management Networks, Committees of Management, Coastcare groups and Aboriginal groups and organisations working on Country.

Applications for the Victorian Landcare Grants will close on **5pm Tuesday 26 July 2022**. For more information visit [environment.vic.gov.au/grants/vlg](http://environment.vic.gov.au/grants/vlg)

### Victorian Junior Landcare and Biodiversity Grants

**Grants up to \$5,000 are available for projects that involve and educate young Victorians in valuing and caring for Victoria's native plants, animals and natural environment.**



Funding is on offer for hands-on projects and/or learning activities with a biodiversity focus.

The \$450,000 of grants are open to all schools, kindergartens, childcare centers, Scouts, Girl Guides, Junior Landcare groups and youth groups in Victoria.

The grants are funded through DELWP's Victorian Landcare Program and administered by Landcare Australia as part of its national Junior Landcare Grants program.

**Applications close 3pm Tuesday 9 August 2022.**

For more information, visit [Junior Landcare](#)